

# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

April 7, 2015

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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## General Updates

# THE FARM *to* SCHOOL CENSUS

**Second Bi-Annual Farm to School Census - MAKE SURE YOUR SCHOOLS IS COUNTED!**

The USDA Farm to School Census is a crucial tool for gathering information about state of the farm to school movement. The first census was conducted in 2013, and USDA is now seeking updated information through the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census. The Census questionnaire was **distributed to school districts through state agencies** the week of March 16. School district submissions must be received by May 29, 2015.

### US Food Waste Challenge

WASHINGTON, April 2, 2015 – The U.S. Food Waste Challenge calls on organizations and businesses across the food supply chain to join the fight against food waste. In advance of World Health Day on April 7th, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is reaffirming its commitment to reduce food waste with the launch of a new food application. The App is available for [Android](#) and [Apple](#) devices.



Watch a USDA [video](#) about food-waste reduction in the workplace.

### [Cosmetically Imperfect Seconds in Canada](#)

Check out this new campaign in Canada...maybe it can inspire some school food purchases along the same lines.

## Tools and Resources



Harvest for Healthy Kids Releases Cauliflower Activity Kit. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

### Wisconsin School Garden Initiative Newsletter:

Kid Friendly Gardening Tools

*Photo from the WSGI newsletter*



## Webinars, Conferences and Events

### USDA Farm to School Webinar Series

From January through May, 2015, the USDA Farm to School Program will host webinars every two weeks to help you build your farm to school toolkit. Join us for tips and insights on topics such as building a team, menu planning, program sustainability, and more!

To join us live, register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YMTTVNK>. All times listed are Eastern.

- Curriculum Integration, April 16, 2:00 pm
- Program Sustainability, April 30, 2:00 pm
- Evaluating Your Program, May 13, 2:00 pm
- Tying it All Together and Digging In, May 28, 2:00 pm



United States Department of Agriculture



### Third Annual Native Food Sovereignty Summit

First Nations Development Institute ([First Nations](#)) and the [Oneida Nation of Wisconsin](#) will co-host the Third Annual Food Sovereignty Summit in Green Bay, Wisconsin, October 26-29, 2015, at the Radisson Green Bay Hotel and Conference Center. At the event, Native American communities come together to learn from one another in order to promote Native health, wellness and food sovereignty. This conference sold out well ahead of time the previous two years, so be sure to guarantee your attendance by registering now at [www.firstnations.org/summit](http://www.firstnations.org/summit). Find more information [here](#).

## Farm to School Funding Opportunities

### USDA Announces \$96 Million Available to Expand Access to Healthy Food, Support Rural Economies

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack [announced](#) the availability of \$96.8 million in grants to fund innovative projects designed to support specialty crop producers, local food entrepreneurs, and farm to school efforts. The grant programs administered by the [Agricultural Marketing Service](#) include the [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#), the [Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program](#) and the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, which covers two types of grants: the [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) and the [Local Food Promotion Program](#). Also included in the announcement is the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service [Farm to School Grant Program](#), designed to bring local foods into the school cafeteria.



### Seeds of Change® Grant Program - Vote for Your Favorite Project

To support the mission of the 1% Fund, [Seeds of Change®](#) is hosting the 4th annual Seeds of Change® Grant Program, which encourages communities nationwide to apply for funding to support community or school garden and farming programs.

Voting is open to the public from April 9 through April 27, 2015 at [www.seedsofchangegrant.com](http://www.seedsofchangegrant.com).

A total of \$200,000 in grant money is available.

*Photo: Northland Pines Farm to School Program*

# Farm to School Job Openings

## **Community GroundWorks Is Hiring**

Community GroundWorks is seeking to hire a part-time facilitator for our supported gardening program, Gardening For Good! Starting wage is \$11/hour. Must be available Thursday evenings from May-October. Experience working with people who have disabilities and their Dane County support networks is strongly encouraged. For a detailed job description and application instructions, please visit our website: <http://www.communitygroundworks.org/jobs>  
Deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or [sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov).